



REGION
Cannabis
course
PAGE 5



TAXES
Property
bills due
PAGE 7



SPORTS
Winter
sports
begins
PAGE 8

AGAWAM

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Vaccines begin making way into community

By Shelby Macri
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AGAWAM – The Atrium at Cardinal Drive was host to the first vaccination clinic for COVID-19 in the community.

The Atrium partnered with CVS Health to provide the clinic for residents and staff at the facility.

This clinic's beginning was a celebration for the community's residents and staff, as many were excited to receive their first dose of the vaccine and hope for a better and brighter future.

The Atrium is doing three stages of their vaccinations, with the required 21 days in-between doses. The first dose was administered last Friday Jan. 15. Those who received the vaccine then will receive their second dose on Friday, Feb. 5. On that day, the Atrium will be offering the first dose of the vaccine to staff who didn't receive their first dose on Jan. 15. Remaining second doses are scheduled to be administered on Feb. 26.

"All of our residents got vaccinated today, and about 65 percent of staff got the vaccine," said Cheryl Moran, the Executive Director of the Atrium. "The staff

VACCINES | page 2



The Atrium at Cardinal Drive, a retirement and assisted living facility hosted a vaccine clinic for its residents and staff. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

Main Street designated for first president

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – A portion of Main Street will be named as the George Washington Memorial Highway to mark the route that our first president travelled on two separate occasions.

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, and State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, created a bill and pushed it through Massachusetts legislature to commemorate the historic route.

This was done on behalf of Agawam's Veterans Council, as members approached Boldyga and Velis to help put signage and recognition along the route.

The bill was pushed through in the remaining days of the 2019-20 legislative session, so it will take a while for the signage to be created, delivered, and put up along the route.

There will be a number of signs along the route to commemorate it, from the Connecticut line to the intersection of Route 75 and 147," Boldyga said. "Once we have the signs made and available, we'll have a small ceremony to celebrate putting the signs up and having the recognition."



Main Street will now be a part of the George Washington National Highway. The nation's first president traveled along the road in 1775 before the Revolutionary War to lead the Army. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Main Street will still keep its name, but Boldyga said it will also have the George Washington Memorial Highway designation. Rather than changing the whole street name and making it one name, it will be both.

"The Agawam Veterans Council came to me a year or so ago and gave me the history of the town and the fact that George Wash-

ington took the trip on that route twice," Boldyga said. "They explained that other cities and towns have commemorative signs for the highway and the council wanted appropriate signage in Agawam as well. Because Washington was a commander in the Army before becoming president, and the council wanted to honor that."

MAIN STREET | page 2

Committee OK's change in agreement with union

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – With students set to return to hybrid learning but the community still at high-risk for COVID-19 transmission and the schools potentially facing more intermittent closures, the Agawam School Committee has approved a measure that will keep most special education students from being forced to remote learning.

Last Thursday night, a special meeting of the committee was held.

While most of the discussion being held during executive session due to the privileged information involved, the amendment to the agreement between the Agawam Public Schools and the teachers' association was shared with the public when the special meeting resumed.

The amendment provides the ability for special education students to remain going to school in the event of a closure to the rest of the school community.

Public schools have found teaching and instruction for special education students remotely to be particularly difficult, and many remote-only districts have had in-person exceptions for its special education population. With only those students in the building, it has been easy to social distance and keep the small population healthy while continuing much-needed in-person attention.

The amendment to Agawam's current agreement with its union to close schools for the health and safety of its staff and students in the event of a COVID-19 spike now has a caveat that allows special education student to remain in classrooms provided there are no cases of COVID-19 within a special education program. If that program does have a case, then it must pivot to remote learning until all cases within the program are resolved.

Wednesdays are still remote for all students.

The Agawam Public Schools

COMMITTEE | page 2



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IN THIS ISSUE

Opinion	4
Crossword	5
Youth	6
Sports	8
Classifieds	10
Public Notices ..	11

12 PAGES

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

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NEWSPAPER

Free tax assistance offered through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413-263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, "although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. 'This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups'."

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you've received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O'Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.



Executive Director Cheryl Moran, resident Nancy Swikalus, and daughter Lori Elek stay socially distant during a visit after Swikalus received a COVID-19 vaccine. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

VACCINES ■ from page 1

members who did not receive one today will get the first one on Feb. 5. It was well organized on our part and it went according to plan. We have about five vaccines left over that we're offering to family members who visit today, with their insurance information. I didn't want them thrown out or wasted so we're offering them."

Moran had a bandage on her arm indicating that she'd received the vaccine, and she explained that it had not hurt and she hadn't felt a side effect besides some soreness in her arm.

The Atrium has been doing everything in their power to keep their residents safe, including following state, CDC, and other company guidelines to keep the staff and residents safe. In the beginning of the pandemic, the Atrium was closed to visitors for 15 weeks.

"We had just moved my mother in in January and when they shut down in March no one was allowed to visit," Lori Elek said. "It was nice this past summer because the set up extra seating areas outside for visitations. They have strict protocols and it's good because it's kept them very healthy through all this."

Elek explained that the staff at Atrium has been great this past year and they put the needs and wellbeing of the residents first, especially during this time.

The families have been included through the whole process and staff makes sure to keep them in the circle of knowledge, as families knew a few weeks ago that the residents would be receiving vaccines. Elek expressed that she had to approve the vaccine, but that that was an easy decision

because she knows it's necessary for the health of her mother. Her mother, a retired Agawam teacher had received the vaccine and a special lunch for the special day.

"It wasn't bad, not at all," said Nancy Swikalus. "It didn't really hurt much. I didn't notice it that much. I feel fine, and I had McDonalds for lunch, with a milkshake."

Swikalus agreed with Moran that there was some soreness in her arm, but even that was bearable.

The kitchen staff spent time creating the McDonalds menu with their own supplies, creating apple pies, milkshakes, and Big Macs for the residents to enjoy; without having to bring outside parties in.

"I think it brings a sense of normalcy again, and the opportunity to keep them safe and it's important," Elek said. "I think it's a good idea to have it here because it's riskier to bring them out and to a different location, it would put residents at risk."

The vaccines began at 8:30 a.m. and continued until everyone received a vaccination.

The Atrium allowed visits during the day as well, with their usual safety precautions including a series of questions and a temperature check before anyone enters the facility. The facility offers limited visitation to ensure the safety of residents. There are four available visitor spots a day, with one person able to visit for thirty minutes. Visitors never go farther than the lobby to protect the rest of the building and residents. The Atrium is excited to be able to provide these clinics to their staff and residents and look forward to a bit of normalcy returning.

MAIN STREET ■ from page 1

He started working on the bill before Velis joined the state senate, but Velis helped him quite a bit once he was senator and could be more involved.

Washington had traveled the route twice; the first time in 1775 while he was on his way to Cambridge to take command of the continental army. The second time he traveled the route was in 1789 when he became president and toured New England on his way to Boston. A private organization had placed markers along the route in 1932 to celebrate the bicentennial of Washington's birth, and the Veteran's Council felt that Washington's route should be celebrated in Agawam as well.

The town's highway department will eventually be responsible for posting the signs, making it a collaborative effort of town officials.

Boldyga expressed that in the spring or summer when it's warmer out they will have a small gathering to further celebrate this achievement and dedication. The bill was signed into law by the government on Jan. 4, and officials are excited for the signs to be made and see this project through.

Boldyga mentioned that he was glad to get this done for the Veterans Council and he enjoyed learning about the town's history.

Boldyga says Aldo Mancini and other members of the Veterans Council really wanted to memorialize the route.

In a press release Mancini said, "We've been working on this for several years and are very grateful to Representative Boldyga and Senator Velis for their commitment to work with us and get this done. Sadly, before the bill passed a fellow council member who helped lead the effort passed away, so in some ways this was also to honor him."

This venture was supported by many members and the anticipation for the route's recognition is great. Both Velis and Boldyga were fascinated by the history and were more than willing to get this done for the town.

Residents should look forward to the small ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in the spring and keep their eyes peeled for the brand new signage commemorating the Memorial highway.

COMMITTEE ■ from page 1

have been closed twice so far this year, each for two-week stints. It happened first late last year, and then a second closure occurred for the first two full school weeks of 2021 due to a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases among Agawam Public School students.

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman broke the 48-hour rule for informing the community of the closure because of the quickness of the spike. She made the decision on Sunday, Jan. 3 to close the schools for at least one week, with all learning occurring remotely.

School remained closed to any in-per-

son learning the week of Jan. 11, though high school athletes did begin practicing basketball, swimming, and ice hockey. Basketball and swimming are practiced in Agawam school buildings.

Staff also agreed to another modification. During remote learning, staff will report to buildings at least two days per week according to schedule set up by the building principal. It replaces a previous agreement that allowed staff to remain home if remote learning exceeds 10 school days.

Both amendments were approved unanimously with one committee member absent from the special meeting.

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Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

Church consignment shop holding Saturday hours

AGAWAM – Starting Saturday, Feb. 6, the Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be extending its hours to include the first Saturday of each month. While our Wednesday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., our Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come on by and check out our shop. We carry a variety of items including clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, toys, household and gift items.

Due to Covid -19 restrictions and workplace safety standards, we ask that patrons please adhere to our face coverings and sales space occupancy requirements. Capacity limitation signs are posted outside each sales room indicating the number of people allowed. To best maintain safe social distancing, a traffic flow pattern has been added and separate doors to enter and exit our facility are marked.

For future news and information, especially on our popular \$5 bag sale taking place in late February/early March, please visit our Facebook business page known as The Trading Post Consignment Shop or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

We thank our customers for their continued support, patience, understanding and compliance during this difficult and unprecedented times.

Tenaska, Berkshire Power accepting college scholarship applications

AGAWAM – Tenaska and Berkshire Power Company, LLC are sponsoring \$4,500 in academic scholarships for college-bound Agawam High School seniors again this year.

Tenaska, one of the leading independent power producers in the United States, is the owner of Berkshire Power Company, LLC and its 229-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fueled power plant in Agawam. Tenaska manages scholarship programs in communities where its generating facilities are located. To date, more than \$800,000 in scholarships have been given out to roughly 900 students across the United States.

Since the Berkshire scholarship was initiated for the 2018-2019 school year, \$9,000 in scholarships have been awarded to six students.

Agawam High School students graduating in spring 2021 who will be attending a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution may apply. Scholarship applications are available through school guidance counselors. Completed applications must be submitted no later than Feb. 12. Winners will be announced in the spring. Three \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded.

“As a continued proponent of education, Tenaska is proud to support the success of these Agawam High School seniors,” said Robert Bell, plant manager at Berkshire Power Company.

A committee at Tenaska's headquarters will select the college-bound seniors to receive the scholarships. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate that they are prepared for college study, have good character and rank in the top 50 percent of their class.

The Berkshire plant generates power for the ISO New England market, the regional transmission organization that serves six New England states, including Massachusetts. At 229 MW, the plant can generate enough power for approximately 230,000 homes.

Berkshire Power Company is an important contributor to the local tax base. In 2019, the plant injected more than \$6.3 million in salaries and payments to local contractors and vendors into the area economy.

In addition, employees are active in the community. They volunteered hundreds of hours of service to local community and charitable projects in 2019.

Applause series continues with recorded concert



The Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series takes on a Caribbean vibe on Friday, Feb. 5 when the Caribbean island-style sounds of the White-Eyed Lizard Band will be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam's and Southwick's public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AGAWAM – The 17th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series continues virtually on Friday, Feb. 5, with the steel drum/Calypso/Reggae/island-style sounds of White-Eyed Lizard Band. The performance was previously recorded at the Darcy B. Davis Jr. Bandshell at Agawam's School Street Park and will be presented on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick's TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch Channel 15" button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

This group has performed throughout the region since its founding in 2003. Lead vocalist and drum set player Luke Rodney is originally from Trinidad, the birthplace of the Steel Pan. Kurt Ginter performs on bass, keyboard, and background vocals. On steel pan is Aaron Cote, an internationally acclaimed steel pan composer. You will not want to miss this enjoyable display of musicianship—mark your calendar now.

Production sponsor for White-Eyed Lizard Band is Easthampton Savings Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council

also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Girl scout cookies for sale

HOLYOKE – Local Girl Scouts will put to use new sales strategies and technology skills honed during a global pandemic as Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts kicks off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season. The cookie season like no other begins this Friday, Jan. 15, in central & western Massachusetts.

Girl Scouts are selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during a challenging time. Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods to share the joy of Girl Scout Cookies through the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program—including taking contact-free pickup and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grubhub. Additionally, Girl Scouts of the USA is making online cookie ordering available nationwide on Feb. 1 so consumers who don't know a Girl Scout can still purchase cookies from a local troop for direct shipment to their homes or donation to local organizations.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the Digital Cookie platform online, which GSUSA launched in 2014.

With the COVID-19 pandemic girls are faced with the same challenges as other small businesses. Girls in Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties quickly pivoted their sales methods. From running virtual cookie booths on social media to participating in drive-through locations to facilitating orders that ship directly to customers' doors, girls as young as five years old are continuing to embrace their entrepreneurial spirits, stay connected to their communities, and have fun by participating in the cookie program. And, the proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop

and Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts to power Girl Scouts' essential leadership programming.

Here are the ways local Girl Scouts will be selling cookies this year:

Online: Girl Scouts will be selling cookies online through Digital Cookie and social media (with parental supervision) to promote their virtual cookie business to friends and family. Whether its emails, door hangers, or virtual cookie booths, customers will have contactless purchase and delivery options as well as the option to donate cookies to GSCWM's Project Care & Share (cookies for our service men and women).

Cookie Booths: Drive-through cookie booths; "lemonade stand style" neighborhood booths; and traditional storefront cookies booths at local establishments including GNC. Girls are exploring new and innovative ways to sell cookies directly to the public while also making sure to follow COVID-19 safety protocols based on Governor Baker and local health board restrictions).

Grubhub and GSUSA National Online Cookie program: New this year, customers can support their local Girl Scouts by purchasing through Grubhub in select areas (Holyoke, Lee and Worcester). Customers who don't know a Girl Scout will still be able to order from a local Girl Scout through GSUSA's National Online program. Both methods offer contactless online purchase and delivery.

All purchases of Thin Mints, Samoas, Lemon-Ups, and other Girl Scout Cookie favorites are an invest-



ment in girl leadership in your local community. With every sale, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls how to think like entrepreneurs as they run their own small businesses and learn skills like goal setting, money management, business ethics, people skills, and decision making—which are imperative for any leadership role. And girls decide how to use their portion of the proceeds for unforgettable leadership experiences and community projects, while GSCWM depends on the funds to deliver life-changing Girl Scout programming to 7,000 members in central and western Massachusetts.

To find cookies go to: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/all-about-cookies/support-girls-success.html>

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Do COVID-19 bonuses count as income?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm 63 and still working, and I receive Social Security benefits. Because of COVID-19 my employer has been giving us a \$300 bonus, every three months. This will be \$1,200 for the year and it will put me over the \$18,240 earnings limit for this year. My question is, since these bonuses are COVID-19 related are they still considered earned income? My second question is, if I go over the limit does Social Security stop my check, even if it might be a portion of the check? Signed: Working During COVID-19

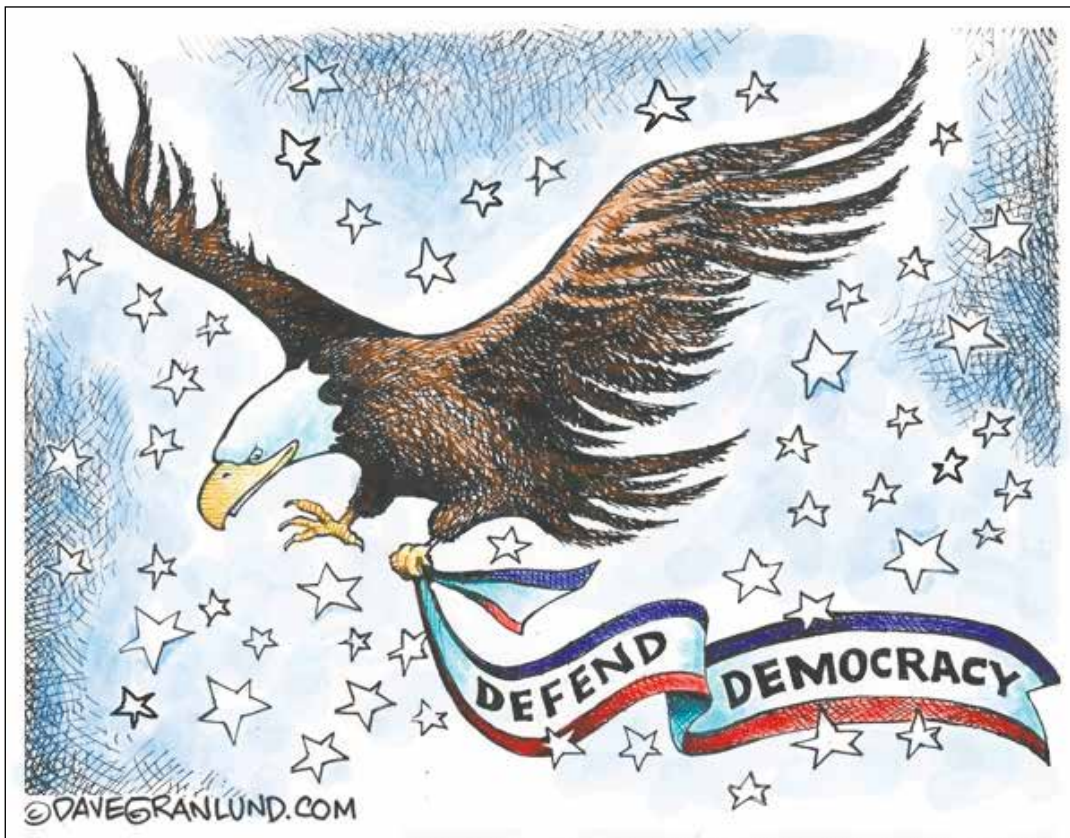
Dear Working: Whether your 2020 earnings (and those bonuses) put you over the annual earnings limit will depend upon how the bonuses are reported on your federal income tax return (or your W-2 if you aren't required to file). Your employer will send your W-2 earnings to the IRS which will, in turn, inform Social Security of your earnings. Social Security compares your 2020 W-2 earnings to the earnings limit to see if you exceeded the allowable limit. In other words, how your employer defines those COVID-19 bonuses and reports it to the IRS determines whether Social Security will count them toward the earnings limit. You should check with your employer's human resources department to see if your COVID-19 bonuses will be considered as taxable earnings reportable on your W-2.

If you exceed the limit, and you don't inform Social Security in advance that you did, they won't know about it until they receive your W-2 information from the IRS (sometime next year, after you file your income taxes). They will then send you a notification that you exceeded the limit and tell you how much you owe them, and they will want to recover \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). They'll give you the option to repay what they consider to be an overpayment in one lump sum, request a repayment plan or to have your Social Security benefits withheld for as many months as it takes for them to recover what you owe. Note they only withhold full months of benefits, not partial, so you could go several months without collecting any Social Security benefits until they recover what is owed.

The money they withhold because you exceeded the limit is not lost forever, because when you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ if you turned 63 in 2020) they will give you time credit for any months they withheld benefits. That means they will move your effective claim date forward by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will result in a small increase in your benefit amount. But you'll get that higher benefit for the rest of your life, enabling you to eventually recover the money they withheld because you exceeded the limit. And for your information, during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) the limit goes up and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn while collecting benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Midwinter garden musings

It was a lot of fun to get back in the groove garden-wise this week. No, my hands weren't in the dirt, but I was definitely dreaming and scheming about the upcoming season, and reflecting on gardens past. Here are some musings that might be of interest to you.

One can presume that the resurgence in gardening we experienced last spring has continued into the new year. Because of unprecedented increases in ordering, two of my favorite mail order seed companies have limited days that you can place online orders and are stating that it will take anywhere from 10 days to six weeks for shipment. So I guess I would advise that if you haven't placed your orders yet, it might be a good idea to do so.

On a sad note, I discovered that one of my favorite companies for flower seed, Stokes Seed, has discontinued flower seed altogether and is catering to commercial growers for its vegetable seed. Good thing I saved an outdated catalog for all of its valuable cultural information. It was here that I learned that cleome seeds like alternating temperatures to germinate well, to the tune of 85 degrees by day and 65 degrees by night! Or that salvia seed needs light to germinate; don't cover these seeds, just push them into the soil surface.

One thing that always appealed to me about this company was the number of varieties that it offered for each flower type. In my old catalog, I counted no less than 22 kinds of petunias in dozens of colors choices. It will take a bit of research to find a replacement for this company but I am guessing there is one or more out there.

The hyacinth bulbs that sat in my 50-degree mudroom since October sometime were put in forcing glasses a little over a week ago, and already have roots that stretch inches into the water. It has been an ongoing joke in my house that if you stood there long enough you could watch them grow. Top growth has started, ever so slightly. I cannot wait

for the blooms to perfume my house! Did you ever get "itchy" after handling hyacinth bulbs? I do, and it is a common reaction for many people. The weird thing is, my hands rarely itch, but it I happen to touch my face or my neck with a hand that touched a hyacinth bulb I had better wash up and quickly!

The rosemary plant that I potted up before the first hard frost is doing great. It gets late morning sun and sits in a comfortable 50-degree location indoors. Old houses are great in that respect; they offer lots of little microclimates for our gardening pass-time. I water it as needed, typically every five days or so. It hasn't flowered, but should soon. Long nights initiate the flowering response. This year it grew so big that I could barely lift it on my own. It may be a good idea to think about taking some cuttings this spring and retiring the old girl. We'll see.

The best cuttings are those taken with a little new growth. Find where the tip of the stem bends on its own and that is where you should take your cutting.

Keeping a large rosemary on board is reminiscent of my teenage years when my parents would cover and uncover the two large specimens we'd overwinter on our unheated porch. We were successful at it for many years in a row.

As I look back I think it is pretty neat that my parents cared enough about my blossoming career to go through the hassle of putting blankets on rosemary plants every night!

On that note, I hope that you too are able to find your groove this week, gardening or elsewhere.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

Movement program offered for area youth

WESTFIELD – The YMCA of Greater Westfield, in collaboration with Baystate Health, is offering the MIGHTY (Moving, Improving, and Gaining Health Together at the YMCA) program; Now enrolling children between the ages of 8 and 10. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MIGHTY, funded by a grant from Kohl's Cares, is an evidence-based, multi-component pediatric weight management program for children with a body mass index above the 95th percentile. This free program meets twice per month, over a six-month period. During each two-hour session, children and their families engage with exercise specialists, nutritionists and behavioral health workers in classroom instruction and group exercise sessions.

To be eligible for the MIGHTY Program,

participants must be at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index (BMI), provide a medical clearance form signed by their health care provider and attend a registration session, Thursday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. with the child at the YMCA of Greater Westfield. Registration is now open.

Space is limited while adhering to the social distancing guideline. To register, contact YMCA of Greater Westfield, Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, 413-568-8631, cagan@westfieldymca.org.

The YMCA of Greater Westfield is committed to be the leader in improving the quality of life for members of our community by providing cause-driven programs for individuals and families focusing on youth development, on healthy living and on social responsibility.



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HCC adds cannabis job training program to spring schedule

HOLYOKE – The Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College has added a second cannabis core training program to its spring calendar of workforce training programs.

The CEC will offer another round of its intensive, two-day Cannabis Core Training program on Sat., March 20, and Sunday, March 21.

Slots also remain open for Cannabis Core Training the weekend of Sat., Jan. 23, and Sunday, Jan. 24.

Each day will be broken down into two sessions, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. Each session will include presentations from cannabis industry experts followed by a question and answer period.

Students who complete the core training are then eligible to register for spring 2021 classes in one of four cannabis industry career tracks: Cultivation Assistant (Feb. 6 – Feb. 21); Extraction Technician (Feb. 27-March 14); Culinary Assistant (April 3 – April 18); and Patient Services Associate (Jan. 30 – Feb. 14; and May 1- May 16).

Cultivation assistants provide the daily care of the crops from seed to harvest and may be involved in cracking seeds, soil mixing, potting, defoliation, watering, pest control and trimming.

Extraction technicians work in labs assisting production managers in all aspects of extraction, purging, oil manipulation, winterization, distillation, solvent recov-

ery, and quality control. Patient service associates work behind the counters at cannabis dispensaries, interacting with the public, answering technical questions, and providing information to registered cannabis patients, caregivers, and recreational customers making purchases.

Culinary assistants are responsible for preparing cannabis or cannabidiol-infused products using a variety of cooking, baking, and infusion techniques.

To register for the January or March Cannabis Core Training class, please go to: hcc.edu/cec-core

The cost of the two-day core training session is \$595. Each career track program is \$799.

The Cannabis Education Center is a partnership between HCC and Elevate Northeast and based out of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

Elevate Northeast is a Massachusetts-based, women-founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit, created to support the Northeast U.S.'s growing cannabis industry through workforce training, education and advocacy.

More information on these and other upcoming classes and programs can be found on the Cannabis Education Center's website – cannabiseducationcenter.org or by calling 413-552-2320.



Some of the cannabidiol products in the foreground were used to make cookies during a cannabis culinary assistant training course early last spring at the HCC-MGM Culinary Arts Institute. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

Virtual airing of concerts set for next weekend

HOLYOKE – The Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) Victory Theatre and New England Public Media (NEPM) are partnering to present El Puerto Rico 3: Identity Duets to audiences across the region. There will be two virtual airings on Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m. These special debut concerts will feature new MIFA commissioned works by six contemporary Puerto Rican composers performed by the Victory Players Contemporary Music Ensemble under the direction of Music Director Tianhui Ng. Please join us for the conversations with the creative team behind the production immediately after each performance. Tickets are \$20.00 and on sale now at www.mifafestival.org.

COMPOSERS

Gabriel Bouche
Carlos Carrillo
Johanny Navarro
Christian Quinones
Ivan E. Rodriguez
Omar Surillo
ENSEMBLE

Giovanni Pérez, Flute
Eric Schultz, Clarinet
Elly Toyoda, Violin
Clare Monfredo, Cello
Nathan Ben-Yehuda, Pianist
Robert Rocheteau, Percussion

Now in its third year, El Puerto Rico, The Rich Port is a part of an ongoing exploration of the musical heritage of Puerto Rico by the MIFA Victory Players and is inspired by the rich history and culture of the island. The Victory Players are an initiative of the MIFA Victory Theatre International Arts Academy. The Academy was created to enhance the artistic, economic, and community impact of the reopened Victory Theater. A result of the vision of Don Sanders, MIFA Victory Theatre Executive Artistic Director, Tianhui Ng, Director of Orchestral Studies at Mount Holyoke College, The Victory Players Contemporary Music Ensemble is the Academy's first project to embody its goals. This is the third round of commissions added to the collection of six original pieces MIFA has commissioned since 2018.

Valley Habitat for Humanity building two affordable homes in Pelham

Staff report

PELHAM – Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that applications are available for two three-bedroom homeownership opportunities in Pelham. The application deadline is Friday March 12, 2021. The sale price for the home will be \$155,000 or less. Eligible applicants will have incomes up to 60% of area median income which is adjusted for family size.

People interested in submitting an application are invited to attend one of the following Zoom information sessions to learn more:

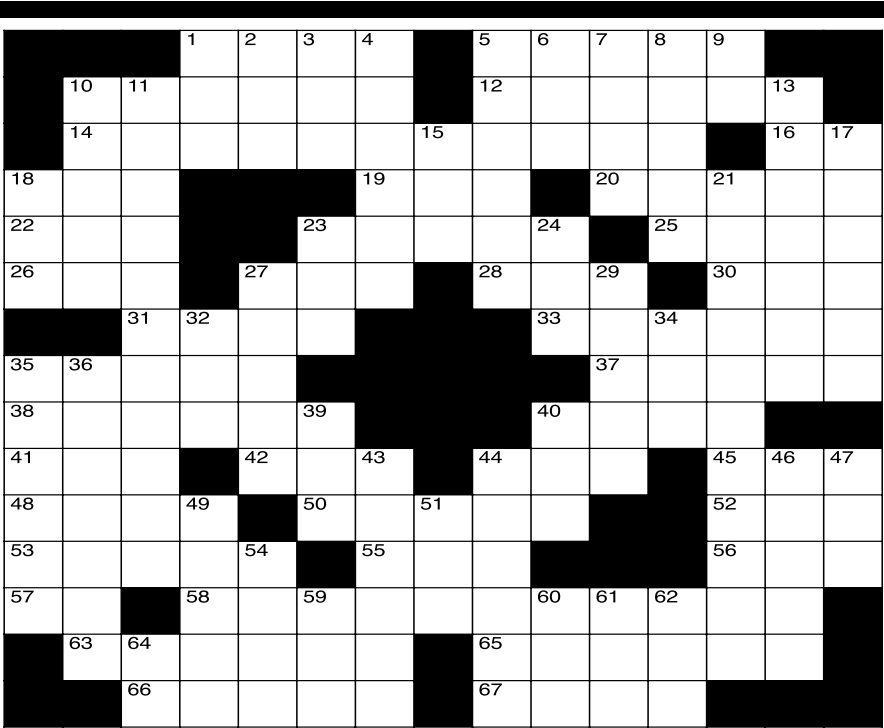
- Saturday Jan. 23 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Feb. 24 at 3:30 p.m.

During the information session, potential applicants will learn about Habitat's selection criteria and how to prepare a complete application. The selection criteria include housing need, ability to make mortgage payments of \$700 to \$1,200/month, and willingness to partner with Habitat, such as participating in the construction of the home and other Habitat projects. More at <https://www.pvhabitat.org/apply/>.

www.pvhabitat.org/apply/.

All homes will be built to Energy Star standards and are designed to be visitable by someone in a wheel chair. All Habitat built homes are restricted to income eligible buyers in perpetuity.

Since 1989, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built decent, affordable homes with 42 low income families in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We build our homes with volunteer labor and donations of material, supplies, land, and services. At the onset of homebuilding, a family is selected and enters into a long term partnership with Pioneer Valley Habitat. Future homeowners contribute 250 hours of labor during the construction of their home alongside volunteers from the community. Upon completion, the home is sold to the family with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is a hand-up, not a hand-out: the organization has a perpetual legacy in that all mortgage funds received are reinvested to build more homes. We are a housing organization helping to bring stability to families, bringing more stability into our neighborhoods and communities.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
10. Soft fabric
12. Covered in flowers
14. Works at a college or university
16. Keeps us cool
18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
19. Similar
20. Birthplace of Muhammad
22. They __
23. Preamble to a book
25. Southern China people
26. Hair product
27. The woman
28. Partner to cheese
30. One point north of due east
31. Round Dutch cheese
33. Be in awe of
35. Christmas song
37. Emits coherent radiation
38. Something that is comparable to another
40. Monetary unit
41. The cutting part of a drill
42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
44. Touch lightly
45. Toyota SUV
48. __ and Andy, TV show
50. Made less dangerous
52. Assets under management (abbr.)
53. Nostrils
55. Moved quickly
56. Thai isthmus
57. TV personality Roker
58. Honors anew
63. Rags
65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
66. Marketplaces
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
2. Not new
3. Brew
4. Stain with mud
5. Chief or leader
6. Luke Skywalker's mentor __-Wan
7. Type of sauce
8. Sharpens
9. Priestess loved by Zeus
10. Jean Henri __, French entomologist
11. Regulates supply of fuel
13. Disturbing and horrifying
15. Equal (prefix)
17. Hosts film festival
18. Tattered piece of clothing
21. Rich desserts
23. Unique motor (abbr.)
24. Disfigure
27. Chemical substance
29. Slang for famous person
32. Department of Labor
34. The A-team rode around in one
35. Beach cabin
36. Living things
39. Gun (slang)
40. Disconsolate
43. Stroke gently
44. Actress Richards
46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
49. Brazilian mountain range
51. Upset
54. One with supernatural insight
59. Insecticide
60. Taxi
61. "Much __ about nothing"
62. Cannister
64. Popular clothing retailer

Schools & Youth

HCC Women's Leadership Series returns Jan. 27

HOLYOKE – Luz Lopez, executive director of MetroCare of Springfield, and Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health, will be the featured presenters Jan. 27 for the first Holyoke Community College Women's Leadership Luncheon Series of 2021.

The Spring Women's Leadership Luncheon Series will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April and May.

Once a month, participants will join a group of women leaders to discuss current issues and ideas to help their leadership development. They will also have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders to help navigate their careers.

The theme of the first session is "Compassion Fatigue."

"I think many of us are feeling exhausted from all the work and life adjustments we've had to make in 2020," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional Development. "There couldn't be a better time to get together with a small group of like-minded women to get feedback and



Luz Lopez, executive director of MetroCare of Springfield. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health will be the featured presenters at the first Women's Leadership Luncheon of 2021.

professional support for the new year. Whether you're at the beginning or middle of your career, this is a great opportunity to boost your outlook and skills."

Each lunch-time event will feature two presenters leading discussions on different topics:

Jan. 27: "Compassion Fatigue" – Lopez and Golden.

Feb. 24: "Maintaining Power and Grace with Glass Ceilings" – Lynn Turner, coach and business strategist, Clear Vision Alliance, Inc.; Moe Belliveau, executive director, Easthampton Chamber of Commerce.

March 31: "Women's Leadership from a Male Perspective" – Presenters TBD

April 28: Topic and presenters TBD

May 26: "Leading Through Change" – Margaret Tantillo, executive director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Jess Roncarati-Howe, program director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts.

Sessions are \$20 each. The full five-session series is \$50. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/leadership-luncheons

Local students make HCC Dean's list

Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2020 semester.

Agawam: Desiree Alvarado, Nicholas Theodore Archambault, Christopher Bonneau, Brian Bugli, Megan Conroy, Mary-Ellen Conway, Jessica Marie Dion, Patrick Brian Gauthier, Alaina Terese Henry, Emily Isabella Jabry, Idibek Jalilov, Taunya Re-

nee Jaspersen, Alice Jenkins, Maria Norma Lempke, Daophone Ly, Marissa Ann Mansfield, Sharon Liz Medina, Gabriel Santos Rocha Menasce, Caroline Ortiz, Nadzeya A. Semenovich, Casey Jane Smith, Jillian Smith, Emily Taylor, Jessica Ann Trinkle.

Feeding Hills: Hazim I. Ahmed, Carrie Jean Burbank, Kyle Ford Cullen, Mary Lynn Diaz, Patrick John Donahue, Kyler Kiselewski, Cameron Dennis Lebeau, Joseph William Napolitan, Joselyn Delia Rivera, Michael Standing, Amanda Jean Szczepanek, Alexandria Taylor, Ashley Ugolini.

Nichols honors local students

DUDLEY – Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved Dean's List or President's List honors during the fall 2020 semester.

The Dean's List and President's List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate

credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

Nicholas Lavrenchuk of Feeding Hills, MA has achieved President's List honors.

Madison Manser of Feeding Hills, MA has achieved Dean's List honors.

Students make Dean's list at SNHU

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2020 President's List.

Eligibility for the President's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the semester. Juste Gavelyte of Agawam and McKenzie Lyne of Feeding Hills earned Dean's List honors.

Coughlin named to Utah's Dean's list

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – Riley Coughlin, of Agawam, was named to the University of Utah's Fall 2020 Dean's List. Coughlin's major is listed as Business Administration BS.

Coughlin was among more than 9,700 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the U. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

Applications open to high school seniors and college students studying journalism

Staff report

REGION – The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England. Applications are open through the deadline of March 12, 2021. Our foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the newspaper industry.

College students or high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply.

For more information contact Linda Conway at l.conway@nenpa.com.

To qualify students must:

Be a resident of New England.

Be a senior in high school planning to attend college the following year or an undergraduate college student studying journalism or a related field.

Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Demonstrate a serious interest in a career in journalism by sending: a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication and/or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

Please note: You will be required to sign in to Google to upload documents.

The deadline to apply is March 12, 2021.

NOTICE

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Registration date changed for night school

AGAWAM – In case of an increase of COVID cases after the holiday break and in an abundance of precaution, the Agawam Night School registration dates and calendar have changed.

Registration for Night school is now Tuesday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

If the number of COVID cases have significantly rescinded and if it is approved by the Agawam Health Department and our Superintendent, Mrs. Sheila Hoffman,

our Adult Education Program will not be remote. The first day of classes would be March 23, 2021 and the last class would be June 3, 2021. Classes will run on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

If we are not able to have classes at high school and it is scheduled as remote the start and end date will remain the same. Remote classes are self-driven. Students will be required to complete 30 hours and pass the course with a 65 or better.

UMass Music & Dance to present livestreamed concert by Kathryn Lockwood

AMHERST – On Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m., the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Music and Dance will present a free solo performance by viola professor Kathryn Lockwood. The concert, which will be livestreamed from Bezanson Recital Hall to the department's YouTube Channel, will feature performances of J.S. Bach's Suite No. 5 in C minor, Max Reger's Viola Suite No. 2 in D Major and György

Kurtág's Signs, Games and Messages for Viola.

Lockwood has been actively performing during the pandemic as a member of world-music ensemble duo Jalal with percussionist Yousif Sheronick. The ensemble has staged live streamed performances from the historic Hempstead House at New York's Sands Point Preserve.

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Third quarter tax bills due Feb. 1

AGAWAM – The third quarter actual real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 2021 are due in the Town of Agawam Collector’s office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. The town hall is currently closed to the public. Bills may be paid online at www.agawam.ma.us, by mail in the envelope provided or put in one of the two drop boxes that are provided outside the town hall

door for your convenience. Third quarter payment notices were mailed Dec. 31, 2020. By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of Jan. 1, 2020. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received their real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the Collector’s office immediately to obtain the bill amount. The telephone number is (413) 786-0400 extension 8218.

St. Patrick’s Road Race going virtual for 2021

HOLYOKE – If you haven’t heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn’t come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year’s in person race. We’ve been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

We understand that this isn’t a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual

Holyoke St Patrick’s Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this “Homecoming Weekend” the best one of the year. We look forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race in March 2022.

Dakin Humane Society Donors have options for donations

Staff report

SPRINGFIELD– Dakin Humane Society, at 171 Union Street in Springfield, is offering Plush Pals, stuffed dogs and cats, as a way of leveraging the strength of its animal loving community to help children during these difficult times when contact and hugs have been minimized due to COVID-19.

Individuals can request their own Plush Pal or select a “Get One, Give One” option while donating online, which includes a Plush Pal for themselves and another to be sent to a child at Square One. The Springfield-based non-profit organization provides support services and family-friendly education for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children throughout the region.

The Plush Pals stand eight inches high and are mailed out with a Hug Certificate as well as a photo of a special animal who was cared for at Dakin Humane Society. They can be requested when donating online at <http://bit.ly/PlushPals>.

“We began offering Plush Pals during the holiday season, and they are still available,” said Dakin’s Director of Development and Marketing Stacey Price. “Many people, including children, are hurting right now. They can’t be with their friends, some do not have animals at home, and we want them to be able to connect with a loved one, in this case, a Plush Pal, and let them know

that someone is thinking about them. This effort gives individuals the option to provide a Plush Pal to the children at Square One. Some of us have our pets to keep us company throughout the pandemic, but we wanted to do something for those who want that kind of companionship. Plush Pals give them something to cuddle and love.”

Square One was chosen as the recipient of this effort because of its longstanding commitment to helping children in the Pioneer Valley, according to Price. “Their dedication to families, especially in the face of this pandemic, is remarkable, and given Dakin’s mission to help animals and the people who love them, we thought this would be an opportunity to bring joy to children by giving them a special pet of their own.”

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year and has performed more than 98,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England’s largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community.

For more information, visit www.dakin-humane.org.

Winter market in full swing

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that its second annual Winter Farmer’s Market, in partnership with the Holyoke Food Collective, is gearing up for its third event of the 2020-2021 season. After a successful Winter Market for 2019-2020, and an excellent Summer Market, the Greater Holyoke Chamber was eager and excited to continue to bring fresh and local produce to the community this winter, despite a lingering pandemic.

After former Market Manager, Sydney Howard, left in August, the Chamber was fortunate to hire current Manager, Charlie Henzel into the role. A New Hampshire native and recent graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Charlie has taken their energy and passion to ensuring that community members of Holyoke have access to fresh produce. Greater Holyoke Chamber Executive Director, Andréa Marion, comments: “Food accessibility is extremely important for the people of greater Holyoke. We are so thrilled that the Chamber has brought Charlie on-board, who has done a fabulous job not only growing the market, but providing a resemblance of community during these times.”

Market Manager Charlie Henzel adds, “The Holyoke Farmers’ Market is an effort to increase food accessibility within the

Holyoke community as well as support local farms. One way we do this is through the ability for those with SNAP benefits to use HIP, a program which provides free money to EBT card holders at farmers’ markets,” they continue, “It is my goal to work with the community and share the importance of food access. Coming together as a community is essential right now. We will always be stronger together than apart.” Mayor Alex Morse, instrumental in securing funding for the market, adds, “The City is excited to continue working with the Chamber to provide a quality farmers market in our community, and do our part to ensure greater access to fresh and local produce.”

The Winter Farmer’s Market is held every first and third Saturday of the month at the War Memorial Building on Appleton Street, throughout March. The hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and there is a Spanish interpreter at every market, and features produce from Red Fire Farm, D&R Farm, and Atlas Farm. The market follows Governor Baker and the CDC’s guidelines and procedures to ensure a safe shopping experience. Temperature checks, capacity limitations and a mandatory questionnaire are among some of the precautions, masks are mandatory. We hope that you will join us in supporting our local farms.

Boston Children’s Hospital and Baystate Health form collaboration

BOSTON – Boston Children’s Hospital and Baystate Health have formed a collaboration that will improve patient access to highly specialized pediatric care and strengthen the coordination of care between Boston Children’s and Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield.

The collaboration will provide patients throughout western Massachusetts with improved access to pediatric specialty care at Baystate Children’s Hospital, and it will streamline care planning among providers at Boston Children’s and Baystate Children’s. The collaboration anticipates that the two hospitals will jointly develop pathways to ensure that children and adolescents get the right care in the right setting. In some instances, Boston Children’s clinicians will be available to provide care at Baystate Children’s.

“As the leading children’s hospital in western Massachusetts, Baystate Children’s has long partnered with the community to advance the health and well-being of all children from prevention to critical care. Today we are delighted to build upon our exceptional care for families through a collaboration with the much-respected Boston Children’s Hospital, which will provide additional clinical expertise when needed for our young patients,” said Dr. Mark A. Keroack, President and CEO of Baystate Health.

Dr. Charlotte Boney, Chair of the Depart-

ment of Pediatrics at Baystate Children’s Hospital added: “This collaboration acknowledges and strengthens the close working relationship with Boston Children’s Hospital that we have enjoyed for many years. This collaboration will facilitate our continued ability to keep specialty care local so that children and families have access to a broad range of high-quality, affordable services right here in western Massachusetts. We look forward to exploring other opportunities that will strengthen our collaboration to serve our mutual missions of patient care, medical education and community service.”

“At Boston Children’s, we are committed to providing comprehensive pediatric care -- close to home whenever possible -- to patients and families throughout Massachusetts,” said Sandra L. Fenwick, CEO of Boston Children’s Hospital. “This collaboration will strengthen the ability of two great institutions to improve access to the highest quality care for the patients and families we look forward to serving together.”

The collaboration builds on the strong working relationship that currently exists between the two hospitals. The two hospitals already work collaboratively in cardiology, neurology and dermatology, and by enhancing medical education, remote consults, information technology and other initiatives, the two institutions will be better able to coordinate care for their patients.

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SPORTS

WINTER SPORTS

Live-streaming could be available for high school games

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Basketball and hockey may be starting up in the next week or two depending on what school you are playing for, but your ability to catch a game is about as limited as your ability to go to the TD Garden or Fenway Park.

But your favorite high school action may be coming, and for free, to a handheld or other computer device near you.

Many schools, beginning this week with Quabbin Regional's regular season basketball games, will be made available to its faithful utilizing a couple of platforms.

Quabbin's games will be seen on its YouTube channel.

Several schools have YouTube channels, where it now video tapes or streams various events live for people to see. The trend became popular last year in June when many schools lost out on their traditional graduation ceremonies.

It is unclear if those types of ceremonies will be able to return this year, making the ability to stream so people who cannot be there in person can watch, even more important.

There are more ways various schools in the region will stream games for fans. Among them, Agawam and several other schools will utilize Facebook, while others may use the National Federation of High Schools website to do games.



Social media sites like Facebook or Youtube channels could be used by area high schools to livestream winter sporting events. FILE PHOTOS



Hockey games this season may be found on Livebarn or a school's social media website.

Hockey games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield will utilize a website called Livebarn. There will be no fans allowed at swim meets, though many schools are planning to stream those events utilizing social media.

Regardless of the platform, there could be many high school games available to fans during the next months, making it possible for fans to be able to stay in on the action for this season. The trend could continue outdoors next

month if football games are unable to have fans at their games, though guidance have not been issued and things could drastically change in the next month depending on the government's ability to step up vaccinations under the Biden administration.

Fan rule policies were made by the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Despite hesitation over being indoors, up to two home fans per students will be allowed in some schools, much like the fall policy, Agawam Ath-

letic Director and PVIAC Board member David Stratton said.

Not all schools will host fans, however, and much of it depends on how strict a particular town's school department or health department is about the issue. Fans who are allowed to attend basketball or hockey games must be masked and social distance. With basketball having much smaller rosters than soccer and field hockey, it should limit the number of people attending games.

BASEBALL

Tournaments for baseball in question

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – As time continues to run short on the various 2020-2021 seasons, the opportunity for area fans to see their favorite sports' sectional tournaments is running out.

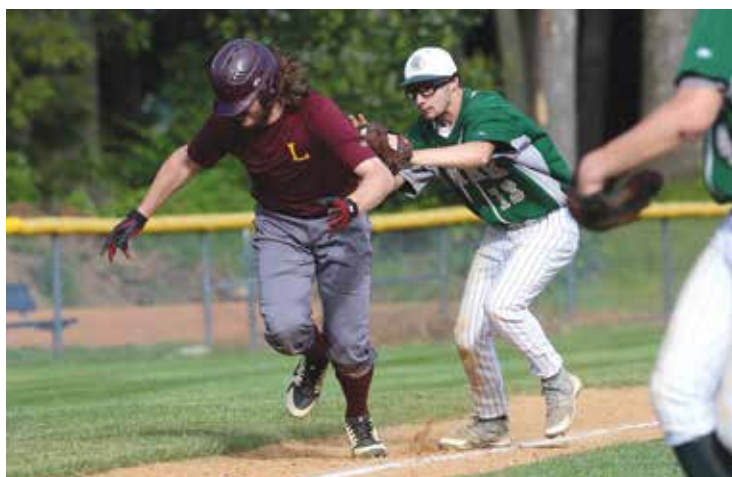
When the majority of the member schools in Massachusetts voted for the change to a statewide tournament and eliminate the sectional tournaments sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, many Western Mass. schools voted against the idea.

The Western Mass. tournament, especially in certain sports like soccer and basketball, has been an important event to the region between the ability to obtain bragging rights for an area of the state often segregated from the rest.

The 2020-2021 school was set to be the final year with a sectional tournament, a sobering fact for fans of soccer and basketball who were used to the spectacle of seeing the best teams compete for the soccer title at big venues like Westfield State University, and Curry Hicks Cage in the case of basketball.



The spring baseball tournament is still in question as conditions in six months are hard to predict right now. FILE PHOTOS



UMass has been a popular site for the Western Mass. baseball tournament.

RACING

Tri track modified series confirms six 2021 dates

SEEKONK – The Tri Track Open Modified Series officials confirmed on Tuesday six dates for the 2021 season. The series will compete at three different tracks in two different New England states, headlined by multiple staple events and the anticipated return to Massachusetts.

Fans can expect a return to Monadnock Speedway (twice), two stops at Star Speedway, including the 10th annual SBM, and two stops at Seekonk Speedway -- including the prestigious \$10,000

to win Open Wheel Wednesday and the fan-favorite Haunted Hundred.

The season begins back on the high-banks of Monadnock, in Winchester, New Hampshire, with a 100-lap feature on Saturday, May 1. The date will be part of Monadnock's opening Spring Dash weekend, which will also include their NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Racing Series divisions and the Granite State Pro Stock Series. Tri Track will

RACING | page 9



The Tri Track Open Modified Series will have six dates in 2021 for its competition. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sports

RACING ■ from page 8

visit Monadnock for a second time on Saturday, August 14, joined again by Monadnock's weekly divisions. The track has been a regular circuit on the Tri Track schedule -- one that places series regulars against the weekly competitors, which often come close to Victory Lane. Craig Lutz and Sam Rameau won events at Monadnock in a COVID-19 shortened 2020 season.

On May 22, Tri Track will return to Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire, for the first of two dates on the 2021 calendar. Star has also been well-known for the annual SBM event, which returns for the 10th annual feature spectacular on Saturday, July 24. Two dates at Star in the midst of their packed schedule will give race fans a chance to watch Modifieds tear up the quarter-mile again. Matt Hirschman, a five-time and defending Tri Track champion, went to Victory Lane at Star last year.

With two dates, the return to Massachusetts and Seekonk Speedway is highly anticipated by the series, teams, drivers and fans. Seekonk will host the annual \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday event on Wednesday, June 30, and also host the Haunted Hundred on Saturday, Oct. 23.

As part of the Haunted Hundred -- for the first time -- all three races during the day will be 100 laps. Tri Track headlines the action, crowning the 2021 champion, while the stars of the Pro All Star Series (PASS) and American Canadian Tour (ACT) will also compete in their championship events during the season-finale, which will also end the 75th year of full-time racing at Seekonk in style.

The 2021 schedule is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Registration for the 2021 season will open on January 28, to be completed by drivers and teams through the Tri Track website. More information will be released closer to that date. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit TriTrackModifieds.com and follow the series on social media.

BASEBALL ■ from page 8

In the spring, UMass is also a very popular site, often hosting the semifinals and finals of the Western Mass. softball and baseball tournaments. The sites also host state semifinal games on a rotating basis.

Recently, the baseball committee under the MIAA was discussing the possibilities of whether or not there will be a tournament this spring. The fall and winter tournaments were already cancelled, denying fans their opportunity to have a final sectional under the MIAA banner.

At their Jan. 6 meeting, the committee established a sub-committee to begin studying potential rule changes to the game along with an end-of-season tournament proposal.

The baseball season is currently scheduled to begin in late April, falling the "bubble" or Fall 2 season. Any tournament may be held at the end of June and there is more of a chance for a tournament versus other seasons because the vaccination effort for COVID-19 could be in more advance stages leading to a relaxing of social distancing and large gathering guidelines.

Schedules and tournaments have been largely influenced by an interest in keeping interactions limited. Tournaments that draw lots of fans and matchups between random schools paired together in brackets were eliminated in favor of playing in small geographic bubbles and keeping most schools playing just a small number of opponents.

Baseball could also see some rule changes, though those modifications could be limited because the sport largely allows for social distancing and very limited contact between players on the same or opposing teams.

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New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.

The WMBUA's first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow's classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available. sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/25, 2/1, and 2/8
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

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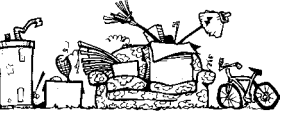
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To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Matthew Weir** of Holden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court

before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/04/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 07, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
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01/21/2021

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The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a zoning amendment to Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (TOR-2020-9).

Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-

9 may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. Calls must be made at 7:05pm to provide testimony. If you plan to testify at this Public Hearing please email Barbara Bard at bbard@agawam.ma.us before 5:00pm to register. This **remote** public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-9 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
01/14, 01/21/2021

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UMass Fine Arts Center announces virtual spring season

AMHERST – This spring the UMass Fine Arts Center takes full advantage of the virtual world to engage and inspire audiences with over 40 online events featuring renowned artists like visual artist Alison Saar and the South African choral icons Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Audiences can witness musicians from around the world perform in the newest configuration of the Silkroad Ensemble and enjoy the return of audience favorites like cellist Matt Haimovitz. “This moment to pivot enabled us to expand our reach, allowing us to bring the wonders of the arts to more communities in our richly diverse region,” said Director Jamilla Deria. In keeping with tradition, the first event of the semester is the annual Fine Arts Center Gala hosted via Zoom on Feb. 6, and sponsored by Greenfield|Northampton Cooperative Bank. With the theme of “Relive-Renew-Reimagine,” the virtual version of this beloved and historically sold-out event celebrates and supports the Arts/Access outreach programs of the Fine Arts Center.

The presentation includes a trivia contest and prizes sponsored by Florence Bank and a “mini” silent auction featuring work by Tom Friedman and Laura Radwell. The evening concludes with a virtual dance party to an original set by FEVER, thanks to Finck & Perras Insurance. Registration is required and while the event is free, guests are asked to make a donation at whichever level they are comfortable. The performing arts season kicks off with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Feb. 17. The concert recorded in South Africa features the chorus performing the songs of unity and love that have made them globally renowned.

On April 25 as part of the UMass Bach Festival, renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz presents a virtual presentation of his “Bach Listening-Room” repertoire focused on Bach’s solo cello suites. To close out the season on April 29, members of the Grammy

Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble present highlights from their more than 20-year trajectory recorded from all over the planet. For families, the Fine Arts Center welcomes the virtual tour premiere of Manual Cinema’s “Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively,” on April 11. Inspired by the beloved books by Mo Willems, the piece is realized through Manual Cinema’s critically acclaimed use of projection, shadow puppetry, and immersive sound to create a live cinematic experience. The Bodies at Risk series, featuring BI-POC artists in creative dialogue about the racialized body and social justice, continues from the fall. In conjunction with UMass Dance and Five College Dance Department’s virtual conference, “Beyond the Proscenium,” hip-hop based choreographers Rennie Harris and Jon Boogz talk on March 13, followed by a conversation between indigenous dance artist and company director, Emily Johnson, and choreographer and disability rights activist, Alice Sheppard, on March 18. The Reimagine Artist Residency series introduced last fall continues to feature groundbreaking artists as they redefine what it means to be socially engaged artists. Performance artist Kristina Wong returns on March 1 to present her virtual piece born from the COVID-19 pandemic, “Sweatshop Overlord.” Inspired by her experience forming “Auntie’s Sewing Squad,” the work grew into a now national grassroots effort to provide masks and more to communities in need. Multimedia artist Miwa Matreyek will be in residence focused around her climate-based work, “Infinitely Yours,” leading workshops and participating in a climate crisis panel in collaboration with the UMass School for Earth & Sustainability and the MFA for Poets and Writers. Additional programming includes Japanologist Alex Kerr discussing his book “Lost Japan”; jazz performances by the Fay Victor

Chamber Trio and Zaccai Curtis Afro-Cuban Quartet; and a Valley Jazz Network performance and conversation event focused on jazz and gender featuring Grammy-award winning drummer Teri Lyne Carrington. The University Museum of Contemporary Art has three virtual exhibitions this spring. Of special note is “Mirror Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar” from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation.

For the exhibition “We Are For Freedoms,” the Museum commissioned a series of posters from local and regional artists, asking them to visually respond to their interpretation of freedom.

The third exhibition, “Artifacts at the End of a Decade,” the Museum’s annual Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition, was originally scheduled to debut in March 2020, and features a portfolio of work that has not been on view in its entirety since 1989. Each exhibition will be on view online February through April and features live virtual events with the artists and curators involved in each. Augusta Savage Gallery continues with its 50th anniversary theme, “Healing Bodies,” presenting exhibitions by women from Northampton’s Anchor House of Artists, New Mexico-based artist Carolyn Mae Lassiter, and a posthumous celebration of the work of Brettney Young. Each virtual exhibition launches with an opening reception on Zoom. Additionally, the Gallery hosts artist JuPong Lin’s

installation, “Poetics of Repair – Being Earth, Being Water,” a participatory installation of poetry and paper cranes and canoes, “concocting a medicine of de-colonial love to mend our ravaged world.” Hampden Gallery launches Feb. 1 with a group exhibition “CURRENT UNDERCURRENT” curated by Linda Griggs and M. Charlene Stevens, a visual conversation relating to current events such as COVID-19, gender, racial justice and climate change, featuring over 30 artists. Hampden’s spring schedule also features solo exhibitions by artists Bruce Ackerson and Alicia Renadette. Fine Arts Center venues including the box office, Augusta Savage Gallery, Hampden Gallery and the University Museum of Contemporary Art, remain closed to the public until further notice. Full program details are available at fineartscenter.com. Some events have a nominal access fee per household or device; many are free. For more questions, the box office can be reached by email at facbox@umass.edu and by phone at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., hours subject to change. The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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